**Development of Sanchi**

†1601. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts being made by Government to attract the foreign tourists;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists visiting the World Heritage Buddhist place, Sanchi is decreasing drastically;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts being made to attract tourists again to the said place;

(d) whether Government are contemplating any scheme for the overall development of Sanchi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas through its 13 India Tourism Offices in order to attract foreign tourists to visit tourist places in the country.These activities include advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organising seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures and joint advertisement support, and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The number of foreign tourists visiting Sanchi has been increasing as per the figures given below:

| 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|
| 9,997 | 11,959 | 14,829 |

(d) and (e) Developement and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT administrations for tourism related projects which are identified and prioritized in consultation with them every year under the schems 'Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits', 'Product/ Infrastructure and Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects'.

The details of projects sanctioned during 9th and 10th Plan for development of Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | Amount Sanctioned |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Tourist Reception Centre | 15.00 |
| 2. | Upgradation of John Marshall House | 10.00 |
| 3. | Upgradation/ Renovation of Tank | 21.00 |
| 4. | Expansion of Travellers Lodge | 73.45 |
| 5. | Providing tourist facilities at monuments | 10.00 |
| 6. | Upgradation of Museum Building | 183.00 |
| 7. | Upgradation of Cafeteria | 11.50 |
| 8. | Upgradation of Travellers Lodge | 16.60 |
| 9. | Construction of Meditation Centre | 42.50 |

**Restructuring of ASI**

1602. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to resurrect or restructure the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

**Cable Car at Shravanabelgola**

1603. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India in Delhi has objected to the setting up the cable car at Shravanabelgola in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to accord permission for setting up a cable car at Shravanabelgola in Karnataka to enable visiting pilgrims witness the Mahamasthakabhisheka; and

(d) what is the present status of the above proposal?